

Bayou Corne, Assumption Parish, LA – A sinkhole caused by a collapse of a salt mining cavern continues to grow laterally as the banks slough off to reach a stable angle of repose. The sinkhole appeared early August, 2012, preceded by an increase in bubbles of natural gas. A mining company, Texas Brine, created the salt cavern in the Napoleon Salt Dome too close to the edge of the dome. A wall collapse at about 1300 feet, pulled in soil and create the hole. In addition to the land and trees being swallowed, natural gas and crude oil have been liberated within the dome and has reached the surface. USGS, LDEQ, LDNR, LSU, and several other agencies and universities have investigated and studied the situation. Fifty-eight properties have been offered buyouts from the company, about half have agreed to the offers. A recent video by John Boudreau, the Parish Emergency Manager, has rejuvenated media attention. The video shows a 25'x50' piece of tree covered sloughing off into the sinkhole. The sloughing is expected to go on for years.